A SPRUCE WEB-SPINNING SAWFLY, *CEPHALCIA ARVENSIS* (HYMENOPTERA: PAMPHILIIDAE) FROM BRITAIN

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Some specimens of sawflies identified with *Pamphilius vafer* (L.) and *P. pallipes* (Zetterstedt) were recently sent to me for study from the Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford. In this series I found a female of *Cephalcia arvensis* Panzer, 1805, a notorious pest of spruce (Pschorn-Walcher, 1982). It is widely distributed in Europe, from Siberia to northern China (Xiao *et al.*, 1992), but has not been recorded from Britain (Quinlan & Gauld, 1981). The specimen is an old printed one labelled "Lichfield, L. A. Carr" and with an accession label "Coll. L. A. Carr. Bght. 1929" [printed Bght or bought] and it represents the first collection record from Britain. It is not perfectly clear, however, if this sawfly actually occurs in Britain, because no other British specimens are known. The female may have been brought into Britain by accident or the specimen may bear wrong labels, though the L. A. Carr collection is regarded as all British (D. J. Mann, personal communication) and there is no positive reason to suspect mislabelling. Further collecting in spruce forest is necessary to ascertain occurrence of this species in Britain.

The female is very light-coloured ("*irrorata*" type) and resembles *C. fulva* Battisti & Zanocco, known to occur in Italy, the Czech Republic, Germany, and northeastern China (Kraus, 1998). Battisti & Zanocco (1994) mentioned that "the females of *C. fulva* can be distinguished from *arvensis* and *irrorata* (the latter now recognized as a colour form of *C. arvensis*) by having a bigger head, not constricted behind the eyes, and a rich orange-yellow colour pattern, extended also to metanotum (in *arvensis* and *irrorata* always black)". The British specimen has the metanotum half pale brown and half black, but in other characters (particularly the shape and colour of the head) it agrees with *C. arvensis*.

In Britain, another species of the genus, *Cephalcia lariciphila* (Wachtl) is known. This is a pest of larch (Billany & Brown, 1980; Shinohara, 1997). *Cephalcia arvensis* is distinguished from *C. lariciphila* by its much paler colour pattern; the antennal scape and abdominal venter are mostly pale in *C. arvensis*, whereas they are mostly black in *C. lariciphila* (see Beneš, 1976, and Achterberg & Aartsen, 1986, for more details).

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Dorcatoma dresdensis* Herbst (Col: Anobiidae) and its parasite *Diospilus ephippium* (Nees) (Hym: Braconidae) reared from *Phellinus pomaceus*.**—Examination of some brackets of the uncommon wood-decay fungus *Phellinus pomaceus*, 7.ii.1999, revealed a small number of beetle grubs. A section of the bracket was retained for rearing. Two adult *Dorcatoma dresdensis* Herbst were later found in the rearing chamber together with about 7 or 8 specimens of the parasitic wasp *Diospilus ephippium* (Nees). The brackets were characteristically on a blackthorn stem and the host bush was located in an old overgrown hedge. The location was Churn Bank, Elkstone, E. Glos (SO91) and the hedge forms the upper boundary of an area of ancient wood pasture along the banks of the River Churn.

This Nationally Scarce beetle has only once previously been reported from the county (Alexander, 1995), from a *Ganoderma adspersum* bracket on an ancient parish boundary beech at Rendcomb (SP00) in 1994—a locality only five miles downstream along the Churn Valley. This area appears to be a hot-spot in the county for the genus as *D. flavicornis* (F.) was reared in numbers from red-rotted heartwood of a fallen oak branch gathered the same day a short distance downstream, the first record of this species for the county since 1919 (Atty, 1983). Singletons of the beetle *Aderus oculatus* (Paykull) and an *Eustalomyia* anthomyiid fly also emerged from this material. Other species present at the site include *Orchesia micans* (Panzer), typically developing in brackets of *Inonotus hispidus* on the old ash pollards in the valley. This *Orchesia* is very widespread in this fungus throughout the Cotswold Hills—I know it from fourteen 10 km squares in the county, mainly in old wood-pasture or ancient wood-edge situations. This is in marked contrast to *O. undulata* Kraatz which is confined to the larger ancient oakwoods and old parklands and the rarer *O. minor* Walker, which is also confined to the Cotswold ancient woodlands.

Thanks to Ted Green for finding the fungus and to Mark Shaw for identifying the wasps.—K.N.A. ALEXANDER, 14 Partridge Way, Cirencester. Gloucester GL7 1BQ.

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